

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 CPR-02

PM-07 NSC-10 M-03 OPR-02 PA-03 RSC-01 SS-15 SY-10

PRS-01 A-01 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9689

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7114

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: BREZHNEV DEPARTURE FOR US

1. BREZHNEV, IN JOCLAR MOOD, DEPARTED MOSCOW EXACTLY AT SCHEDULED HOUR OF 10:00 MOSCOW TIME. I SAW HIM OFF AT AIRPORT, ACCOMPANIED BY ABOUT A DOZEN EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS. A LIGHT RAIN HAS JUST ENDED, SIMILAR TO " MUSHROOM RAIN" DESCRIBED TO PRESIDENT NIXON LAST YEAR ON HIS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW. I MENTIONED THAT TO BREZHNEV, WHO IMMEDIATELY PRONOUNCED IT A GOOD OMEN.

2. ALL MOSCOW- BASED POLITBURO MEMBERS (EXCEPT POSSIBLY DEMICHEV) WERE AT AIRPORT. KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY ARRIVED A FULL 15 MINUTES BEFORE BREZHEV. HIS PROMINENCE WAS FURTHER EMPHASIZED BY WALK UP RAMPTO PLANE ALONE, FOLLOWED AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE BY GROMYKO AND PATOLICHEV.

3. MRS. BREZHNEV DID NOT APPEAR AT AIRPORT, BUT SON YURI AND DAUGHTER GALINA WERE BOTH PRESENT. WE LEARNED THAT BREZHNEV BECAME A GREAT- GRANDFATHER ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN HIS GRAND- DAUGHTER GAVE BIRTH TO A GIRL.

4. BREZHNEV' S ASSISTANT ALEKSANDROV IS RECOVERING FROM A BROKEN ARM. IT IS NOT IN A SLING, BUT HE MUST USE HIS LEFT HAND TO SHAKE HANDS. HE MENTIONED IT WAS " BETTER" THAN
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IN GERMANY."
DUBS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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